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Hunters 'focus' on scavenger clues

By MC2(AW) Honey Nixon, NAVSTA Public Affairs

Scavenger hunt participants searched frantically for the last item left on their list, but where in the world is 'something blue where blue is hard to find?'

Base residents and military personnel put their sleuthing skills to the test during the MWR Scavenger Hunt held July 4.

Armed with I-Zone Polaroid cameras, whatever transportation was available, and their individual creativity, eight teams raced to complete a list of clues that led to different locations around base.

The hunt began at the Deer Point Liberty Center. The teams departed around 11 a.m., and had to have their clue lists turned in by 4 p.m., or they were eliminated from the hunt. The clue lists took teams to locations such as Chapel Hill for answers to clues such as 'Known as the Cougars' (the Columbia College mascot) and the batting cages where "no man has pitched before."

Teams were required to photograph the location (the answer to clue) with at least two team members present in the photo. Teams received points for correct answers, and for creativity as well.

When the Seabee team was challenged with the clue, "Something blue where blue is hard to find," they answered with a photo of Tierra Kay housing, since Marine and Army personnel reside there instead of Sailors (blue is hard to find). The team won a point for creativity even though they missed the correct answer — Glass Beach.

The teams also battled heat, time and occasional technical malfunctions.

"We had a disadvantage because our camera didn't work



Photo by MC2(AW) Honey Nixon

BUCN Joshua Dibenedetto takes a picture of his teammates at the Marine Mini-Mart. Instead of the traditional gathering of objects, scavenger hunt participants were required to photograph the answers to their clues with team members present in the photos.

for the first couple of clues," said SW3 Jason Bowles, member of the Seabee team, "so, we had to back-track and re-photograph those clues."

The Seabee team wasn't the only team that faced challenges.

"We had a team called the 'Daring Bikers'," said Julie Kegler, MWR Liberty Coordinator. "They started out with four bikes (borrowed from MWR), got some flat tires early on in the hunt, and had to come back several times to get more film, cameras, and new bikes. But they had nothing but a good attitude about it, and never gave up."

Attitudes like these are why coordinators like Kegler enjoy organizing events for servicemembers. These attitudes also help Kegler realize the value of an event like the Scavenger Hunt.

"Events like these get the guys out of their rooms and motivated," said Kegler. "I think sometimes they aren't motivated to get out of their rooms, but once you get them out, they have a good time."

Bowles agrees events like these help boost morale and provide a positive alternative for servicemembers to spend their leisure time.

"I think this is great entertainment," said Bowles. "It's a good thing for young sailors to do that's fun and interesting, and helps them stay out of trouble."

In the end, it was 'Forces of Nature' made up of Spc. Robert Parker, Lisa Parker, YN3 Sam Ouch, and YN3 Angel Datil, who won the hunt. Each team member received a Sony Micro Hi-Fi component system.

Second place went to 'The Ringers' with each team member receiving a fishing pole with tackle box, and a certificate for a free one-hour boat rental.

Kegler says the hunt was a big success.

"Just to see all of them come in this morning, ready to go, after we had done all the preparations, she said. "I think we had a good turnout and everyone said they had a good time."